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Practical lessons in reconnoitring, outpost duty, etc., ...

Practical lessons

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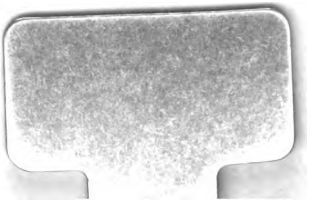

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226.

PRACTICAL LESSONS IN RECONNOITRING, OUTPOST DUTY, ETC.,

SUGGESTED BY THE LATE AUTUMN MANŒUVRES.

No. 1.

RECONNOISSANCE OF THE COUNTRY BETWEEN ALDERSHOT AND WOOLMER

Ausdauer und Beständigkeit bei der Arbeit sind die besten Begleiter auf dem Wege, der zum sicheren Ziele führt.—GÖTHE.

LONDON:
E. & F. N. SPON, 48, CHARING CROSS.
NEW YORK:
446, BROOME STREET.
1872.

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PRACTICAL LESSONS

IN

RECONNOITRING, OUTPOST DUTY, PATROLLING, ETC.

As it so happened that our last autumn manœuvres took place in the immediate neighbourhood of our permanent camp, we have thought that something like a record of the practical lessons in reconnoitring, patrolling, outpost duty, &c., taught at that time might be found useful to some of our young officers during the time of their being quartered at Aldershot, as it would enable them, during their morning rides or walks, to get at least a general idea of the way in which those duties are conducted on service, and thus render themselves familiar with details in which they will probably have to take part in future autumn manœuvres.

One cannot be in several places at the same time, therefore it would be impossible to give a perfectly faithful record of every minor detail of the different movements. It becomes necessary in these cases to take the general features and purport of the movements, and fill in the details according to recognized practice in these matters, which varies so little when the circumstances are similar, that if what is recorded in detail is not exactly what took place, it will probably be something like it, or at least what might or should have taken place.

The present number contains a description of the details of a reconnoissance undertaken between Aldershot and Woolmer, with the view of ascertaining the position, movements, intentions, &c., of an enemy supposed to be posted in that neighbourhood; also so to examine the country as to prevent the possibility of the enemy's patrols approaching our position with a similar purpose without being detected.

Also to ascertain the roads practicable for all arms, by means of which the columns of a force of given strength might be moved and the forces concentrated in the neighbourhood of Woolmer, without block or obstruction on the way.

Also to ascertain as far as possible the general features and capabilities of the country with reference to offensive and defensive

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positions, supply of provisions and forage, and all other matters connected with the march of a large force through an enemy's country.

This to be done cautiously, and as far as possible secretly, and without compromising our patrols.

Marks and indications, such as names of villages, public-houses, inns, parks, residences, sign-posts, &c., are given, so as to render it perfectly easy to trace out in a morning's ride over the actual ground any one of the roads supposed to be followed by the different patrols composing the reconnoissance. The points at which different movements of the patrols are supposed to take place are indicated by estimated distances, to be found within brackets in the description. These distances are only estimated, as would be done on service, and not measured; but they will be found sufficiently accurate for the desired purpose.

The accompanying Plan is only meant to represent the sort of rough pen-and-ink sketch to be sent in to head-quarters upon the termination of the reconnoissance—formed by joining together the columns of route furnished by officers attached to the different patrols. Only the names of those localities which have a particular reference to the movements indicated in the description are inserted in the Plan, all others being left out in order to render it easier to trace the routes of the different patrols.

A very useful map of the country was published last year by Mr. Wyld, Charing Cross, printed upon india-rubber, which can be easily carried in the pocket, examined upon horseback without difficulty, used in windy or rainy weather, &c. In this map every detail will be found fully indicated.

It must not be expected that every small road, track, gate, tree, &c., noted in the description shall be found in the Plan; only the most important have been inserted. The minor points are only given in order to assist an examination of the actual ground while riding over the roads.

We have had a good deal since the last wars in the matter of the general principles of outpost duties, &c., translations from the German, original works, lectures by experienced officers; and our young officers have in this way had every opportunity of making themselves acquainted with these general principles. The application of these principles on service may be found comparatively easy in an open and uncultivated country; but when an officer finds himself called upon suddenly to apply them in a close cultivated country such as we have generally to deal with in modern warfare, where the view is obstructed and the direct passage from point to

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point difficult, he will find that theory is one thing, and practice another.

This has been so fully recognized in our service that till lately, with the exception of the few general principles given in our drill-books, no instruction in these matters has been attempted. It was supposed that the necessary practical knowledge would be acquired on service, and that there were no means of imparting it previously to its being required. That this is a fatal error, more fatal now even than formerly, seems to be generally acknowledged; consequently the instruction in these matters during the autumn manœuvres.

We have supposed these general principles to be already known, and have therefore made no mention of them.

We shall also suppose all the minor details relating to outpost duties and patrolling to be known and understood by all ranks, such as the mode of placing vedettes, forming the advanced and rear guards of the patrols, working of flankers on open plains, formation and movement of the detached patrols, telling off and arrangement of the pickets and patrols; so that no man shall be called upon to perform more than his own share of duty. This latter is important, for these duties are often harassing and fatiguing, and men are apt to be discontented and to work badly when they think they have got more than their own share. Some established system in this matter would be useful. We have also supposed that the non-commissioned officers and men know the details of their own particular duties, and are instructed so as to act with intelligence and a general understanding in all the emergencies of actual service, when there is no longer time for minute explanations. Some established system of instruction in this matter would also be useful, for the difficulty which an officer may feel in the practical application of his theoretical knowledge will not be diminished by the consciousness that he has a number of men to work under him who have all different ideas as to how the minor detail duties should be carried out; that is, if they happen to have any ideas on the subject at all. A great many, including apparently a large proportion of the civilian British public, seem to think that it is all to be done by galloping about in a vague, indiscriminate manner, and jumping over hedges and ditches, pennons flying in the breeze, helmets glancing in the sun, &c., &c.

No man is fit for outpost work unless he can take his horse cleverly over a fence, and our men and horses are trained accordingly. Circumstances will also probably occur where a spurt or a

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dash may become necessary or expedient. But this is a reason why we should reserve our galloping powers as much as possible for such an emergency. Outpost work is essentially a slow, enduring sort of work, and the conservation of power, both mental and physical, during a long reconnoissance or a twenty-four hours' spell of outpost duty, is a point of paramount importance; and every exertion of either men or animals which is not absolutely required is an unnecessary expenditure of this power, which, if continued, may, when the critical moment arrives and our greatest exertions are called for, lead to our finding ourselves forced to meet it with diminished energies. Vigilance, caution, perseverance, with reserved energies for a dash when absolutely required, are the essential qualities of an outpost soldier; but all should be done with a method and a general understanding from first to last.

All ranks will probably feel fresh and equal to any exertion at the commencement of their work, but it is one of the peculiarities of outpost work that it is generally towards the conclusion of the tour of duty that the greatest vigilance and activity are required, and for this we should reserve our force.

Our men are generally well trained to work over open ground as flankers or moving vedettes, and this may to a certain extent be carried out on ground only partially enclosed, taking the fences, or breaking them down, or cutting through them; but in the cultivated country to be usually met with in European warfare, this mode of working becomes inapplicable. We must then work the ground by sending out detached files to both flanks to reconnoitre wherever openings, such as lanes, gates, paths, openings in woods or fences, &c., may present themselves, the detached files rejoining the patrol at a trot when their reconnoissance has been completed.

A closely cultivated country can be examined by this means much more completely than might at first sight be thought possible. Whether the patrol on the road should wait for the return of the detached files, or continue its progress, being rejoined by the files at an increased pace, must depend upon the judgment of the commanding officer.

We shall now mention a few practical matters which are not generally found included amongst the recognized maxims.

Every officer and a certain proportion of the non-commissioned officers employed upon outpost duties should be supplied with a pocket compass and a map, the magnetic north to be indicated on the map by lines, as in the accompanying Plan. This will, with a little practice, enable anyone to trace the roads, find their own

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position, and work their way without difficulty through an unknown country. The compass should be laid on the map with the north and south points in the direction of the north and south line on the map. Then if we turn our horse till the needle points to the north on the compass, we shall have all the roads and the various points indicated on the map coincident or pointing towards the corresponding points on the ground. We can thus work our way from position to position; and at cross roads, or in any doubtful case, determine which is the correct road to follow. We can also, when on picket duty, determine the exact direction of the flank pickets with reference to our own. We should also recommend that one or two men in each patrol should be provided with a small dark lantern, which can be easily carried attached to the belt. After a long day's reconnoitring, the patrols may have to return by the roads by which they came, or else work their way home across country in some other direction by the fading light of evening or at night. In either case a steady light, by means of which map and compass may be consulted, will be necessary, as the uncertain light of a cigar or match is not sufficient for that purpose, particularly in wet or windy weather. On night outpost duty a light of this kind will be found very useful. The small lantern can be lighted by a match when required.

One or two men in each patrol should have a small axe or knife, with a curved blade, attached to the saddle, for the purpose of clearing a way through underwood, or cutting through a fence. This latter may be found useful in working over partially-enclosed ground, when a few strokes of the axe properly delivered may render a fence practicable which would perhaps require a considerable exertion from the horses to clear. This would also not only save an expenditure of force, but also time, in case several horses in succession have to pass over the same point.

An officer, with two assistants (one a non-commissioned officer if possible), intelligent men, with an aptitude for the duty required of them, being selected for the purpose, should be attached to each patrol, in order to prepare the column of route.

The officer commanding the patrol and his subalterns will have quite enough to do to work the patrol to reconnoitre the country to the front and look out for the enemy; and their attention must not be distracted by having to prepare a survey of the ground.

If the officer has been educated as a draughtsman, so much the better, but this is by no means necessary. A little exercise of common sense and of the experience which most of our officers

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have acquired in hunting, shooting, and in other matters appertaining to country life, will be quite sufficient for the production of a column of route, which may prove to be very useful.

A young officer employed upon a duty of this kind should endeavour to place himself in imagination in the position of an officer in command of a considerable force moving forward to attack an enemy, or else in retreat before a superior force, and then think what points it would be important that he should be acquainted with.

For instance, it would be desirable to know the points where good water might be obtained in the vicinity of the road upon which the troops are moving, so that the halts might be arranged to take place where it could be obtained.

There can be no great difficulty in determining if the roads are sufficiently good for the passage of artillery, in which case they may be set down as passable for all arms.

But in determining this point it will be necessary to consider the effect that weather, &c., may have upon the roads; for roads that are fairly passable in dry weather may become impassable in wet; but anyone who has been in the habit of traversing country roads and lanes in all seasons will find little difficulty in settling this point.

It would be desirable to know where good defensible positions present themselves, where, during a retreat, a stand might be made by a considerable force, as well as the most suitable positions for an attacking force which may have to fight its way forward. All the conditions necessary to constitute good positions of this description will be found fully detailed in Colonel Hamley's 'Theory of War,' and should be studied by all who wish to become acquainted with this part of their work.

The officer should also note mentally the points where his own patrol might make a stand in the event of a retreat becoming necessary. His own judgment and experience must help him in this. A bridge, when the stream is impassable, or only fordable at points at some distance from the bridge, when the hedges, and ditches, and banks at the side to be defended would give cover to a few men dismounted to use their carbines, the ground on the enemy's side being open and exposed to their fire.

A narrow road or pass, with banks and cover on each side, which cannot easily be turned, would be good positions; the cavalry being drawn up in rear of the ravine, so as to charge the enemy upon his issuing from it. But with a very little con-

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sideration the officer will be able to determine this matter for himself.

As the officer proceeds along the road, he registers the points which he wishes particularly to indicate, much upon the same principle that a ship's log is kept at sea; that is to say, he takes the bearings with his compass at every point where his course alters in consequence of any considerable change in the direction of the road traversed by the patrol, measuring the distance from point to point by counting the paces of his horse; if the length of pace should have been previously ascertained by experiment, the distances can be laid down with great exactness; but in general, as an approximation, the walking paces of the horse may be taken as yards.

When one's attention is distracted by other matters, it sometimes happens that one gets confused with regard to the distance. This may be avoided, as follows:—

In the first place, at each successive point note down the distance from the last point; then, in case of any uncertainty, it will be only necessary to return to the point last noted, in order to rectify an error; and if it should be desirable to ascertain the distance between any two distant points, it will be only necessary to add up the intermediate distances from point to point. The whip should be attached to the reins or else to the wrist, so as to leave the right hand free. Then, when 100 paces have been counted, the thumb should be placed over the first finger on the knuckle; at 200, the first finger should be placed over the knuckle of the thumb; at 300, the second finger is placed on the thumb, next to the first; at 400, the third finger, next the second; and at 500, the little finger, next the third. When 500 have been counted, a note should be made, either mentally or in writing, when the next 500 will be counted in the same way, and so on. With a little practice, this kind of counting can be carried on mechanically, without distracting the attention from other matters.

If it should become desirable to ascertain the distance of any point at either side of the road, the officer can send out one of his assistants to ascertain the number of strides of the horse, either at the walk or the gallop, in the meantime taking the bearing with his compass, or else he may estimate the distance by the eye.

If the point is at any considerable distance he can take the bearing from any known point on the road, and then again take the bearing back from another point farther on, which will fix the point approximately; but, if possible, an officer engaged in this

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duty should be supplied with the pocket telemeter invented by Mr. Stanley, which is easily carried and used, and gives the distance to 1000 or 1500 yards with great accuracy.

This is a very rough description of surveying, but a column of route made even in this way may be of great value; and anything whatever in the shape of a sketch of the ground is better than nothing at all. Even the roughest kind of sketch accompanying the officer's report will convey a better idea of the ground than any description without it could do.

It has been already stated that the patrol may have to return in the uncertain light of the closing day or at night. Those who have tried it will know how different objects appear at different times and in different lights. The officer and his assistants ought therefore to mark most carefully the points which would assist them in recognizing the road on their return. A branch lopped off here and there, a few stones hastily heaped together at the side of the road where there is likely to be any uncertainty, or any other mark by which the road may be recognized with certainty, would be useful.

Another point which should be attended to is as follows. In moving along a road we are very apt to pass unnoticed any second road which branches off behind us from the road on which we are moving, in a direction contrary to that towards which we are facing, in consequence of which we may upon our return find ourselves confronted by two roads without any distinctive marks to indicate which we should take; and if the angle is acute the difference in the bearings of the two roads will be so slight that the compass will be of little assistance to us. One of the assistants should therefore be told off specially to observe this point.

I have not indicated any particular strength for the reconnoitring party, as the reconnoissance may be worked by any strength whatever, from two squadrons up to a brigade with guns and infantry supports; but, of course, the fewer the men the heavier the duty. At the same time, a small force can work secretly and undetected, while a larger force might be observed and opposed in force; but whatever may be the strength, it has been supposed that the reconnoissance has been told off into three patrols, numbered off as first, second, third, fourth from the right, the commanding officer taking the direction of the second patrol.

The reconnoissance is supposed to parade at and march off from Aldershot, the first and second patrols taking the road by

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Beacon Hill, the third and fourth taking the road by Hungry Hill.

The points A and B are supposed to be just outside the chain of vedettes and sentries; and therefore from these points the working of the reconnoissance is supposed to commence.

At Heath House the first and second patrols separate, one moving to the right and the other to the left, as indicated in the description.

At the 'Royal Arms' hotel the third and fourth patrols separate, each taking a distinct route, as also indicated in the description.

The working of each patrol on its own particular line of route will be now found described. An idea of the general intention may be formed by a reference to the Plan attached; but the notes have been all made with a view to their being referred to when actually riding over and examining the ground, and for the benefit of anyone who may be zealous enough to study such details.

If such an individual exists, it is quite possible he may come to the conclusion that the whole affair might be worked out in a much better manner than that pointed out in the notes; but even if it should be so, the object aimed at will be gained if one or more of our young officers should be led to consider for themselves the practical details of outpost duty, as well as the general principles and theory.

A good deal has been written, and said, and done, with reference to a reform in our military system. Many schemes have been proposed, experiences detailed, assertions made, and opinions expressed.

Some hold that in all future wars cavalry will be of little use; others that it may find a place in the performance of outpost duties, reconnoitring, &c. Some think that infantry can never more appear in the field in line or columns, and that all movements of attack should be made in some kind of swarming, skirmishing formation, the principles of which are not very clearly explained.

Some think that our barrack-yard drill, as it is called, may be dispensed with altogether, or nearly so, and everything done by periodical manœuvres, in which one party is to be told off to fight another; and this opinion now prevails to such an extent that if a young officer should be detached with half-a-dozen men, it is not improbable he would carry on their training by taking up a defensible position with the three men of the rear rank, and attacking in skirmishing order with the front rank.

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It should be recollected that it was our barrack-yard drill and individual instruction that brought our regimental and brigade movements to the degree of perfection so much admired by distinguished foreigners. It would therefore seem that in adopting one we should not neglect the other. A good band of musicians cannot be formed by a succession of concerts alone, and it is a good old saying that it is well to know how to walk before we attempt to run.

All that has been said, or done, or written, has been more or less upon a grand scale. General principles have been discussed, old institutions abolished, radical changes recommended, and all this will no doubt end in good; but we should not forget the details, without the efficient working of which we cannot hope for success, however perfect our general arrangements may be.

We are just at present fond of copying the Germans, and we should copy them in their painstaking attention to all the small matters and details, which, when well combined together, constitute an effective grand total; such as outpost, reconnoitring, ambulance, transport, &c. Then, as the German poet says, "Taking energy and perseverance as our companions on the road, we shall reach the goal of success."

No. 1 *Patrol.*

At Heath House No. 1 patrol bears to the right along the main road, and about 230 yards farther on to the left in a W.S.W. direction round a fir plantation, (300) round to the left by some iron palings in a S.S.W. direction.

Up to this point the flankers can continue to work on the open ground to the right. The flankers on the left having been called in upon passing Heath House, the right flankers here draw in also by signal.

At this point also the officer commanding the patrol sends a corporal and file of men to Crondall by Heath Lane, with orders to ascertain if the enemy's patrols have been seen in that direction, also to gain all information possible with regard to the enemy's movements, position, &c.; then to rejoin the patrol at the half-way house, by the road, passing round Clare Park at a trot.

The patrol then moves down the road to the half-way house, leaving a lodge gate on the right.

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A good view may now be obtained to the front; and the officer commanding the patrol rides with the advanced files, using his glass to reconnoitre.

(1050) Single file through gate to left to reconnoitre.

(150) Single file by lane to right.

(200) The flankers may here extend right and left through Clare Park and grounds, taking the fences or breaking them down, as may be required.

(900) A file of men is here sent by a gate to the left to ascertain if the buildings in that direction are occupied by the enemy. The road here is only about 3 yards wide, but in other respects good.

(500) The patrol here comes out upon the Crondall and Farnham road, near the half-way house.

The officer here halts till rejoined by the corporal and file sent to Crondall, sending a corporal and file of men along the Farnham road; also a corporal and file along the Wells and Sutton road, with orders to reconnoitre both roads for about a mile, and then to rejoin at a trot. He also sends a corporal and file of men to ascertain if the factory and buildings in front are occupied by the enemy.

Upon its being reported that they are unoccupied, and the Crondall and other parties having rejoined, the patrol again proceeds, turning to the right in a W.S.W. direction, passing some stables and other buildings, which might be made defensible.

(450) At this point the patrol turns to the left in a S. direction.

Flankers may here be sent out right and left to reconnoitre from the summit of the rising ground.

(500) The patrol here turns to the left in an E.S.E. direction at a small farmhouse.

(300) The officer here sends a single file by lane to the left to reconnoitre; and here also the patrol turns to the right in a S.S.E. direction.

(800) The patrol here having passed lower house on the left, comes out on the main road from Farnham to Alton.

At this point the officer halts the patrol; sends a corporal and a file of men along the road to Alton for about a mile or so, with orders to reconnoitre and obtain information, if possible; then to rejoin at a trot.

He also sends forward a corporal and two file to ascertain if the village of Wracklesham is occupied by the enemy, with orders

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to leave one single file at the bridge and another at the railway, proceeding himself to the village with the remaining file.

He then writes his report for the officer commanding the reconnoissance, specifying the locality, hour of dispatch, and the pace ordered.

Having prepared his report as quickly as possible, he dispatches it to the officer commanding the reconnoissance to Farnham by a corporal and single file, with orders to proceed and rejoin at a trot. Then having received the reports from the corporals sent on the Alton road and to Wracklesham, as also from Farnham, he moves forward, and crossing the main road, proceeds down the Wracklesham road in a S.S.E. direction. (400 yards) The road crosses the river by a stone bridge. (200 yards) The road passes by an archway under the railway. (100 yards) The road here strikes the Farnham and Wracklesham road, and the patrol turns to the right into the village of Wracklesham. (200 yards) The patrol turns to the right in W.S.W. direction through the village at the 'Cricketers' public-house. (500 yards) The officer sends a single file to the left to reconnoitre by the road leading to Red Hill. Here a clear and extended view is obtained to the right across the railway and the river. Flankers to the right are therefore unnecessary. (700 yards) A single file is sent by road to the left to reconnoitre.

View here opens out on both flanks. The officer rides forward with the advanced files, halting now and then for a few seconds to reconnoitre with his glass. (270 yards) A file of men are here sent to the left to reconnoitre the lower part of the valley, which cannot be seen from the road, one man remaining on the high ground to communicate, while the other descends into the valley. The road is here from 7 to 8 yards wide. (400) Forest Inn. The patrol halts here while the advanced guard examines the houses and buildings in front. During the halt the commanding officer examines the country to his front with his glass. Upon the signal being given that all is clear by the advanced guard, the patrol again advances. (100) Two file by gate to right: three men to enter the wood, and move amongst the trees, examining the wood as closely as possible—one man to ride outside, skirting the wood, for the purpose of communicating signals to patrol on road. (280) A sergeant and two files are here detached, with orders to proceed along the road to the left for about 900 yards; then to the right by road in a S.S.W. direction, rejoining the patrol at the 'Buckhorn Oak' public-house, by

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Harding's road, reconnoitring the country carefully, particularly the wooded ground.

Two file are sent by same road, with orders to turn to the right upon reaching the wood—one man moving outside, skirting the wood, the others moving in the wood, so as to examine it thoroughly where practicable. (450) The right flankers having so far reconnoitred the wood, are here recalled by signal, and trot in by lane and gate on the right. (650) Corporal and file of men sent down by road to the right to reconnoitre the woods and enclosures about Holt Lodge to rejoin at the 'Buckhorn Oak' public-house. (220) Corporal and file sent through wood by gate and track to left, with orders to reconnoitre the wood for a short distance, and then rejoin at 'Buckhorn Oak' public-house at a trot. The left flankers are here recalled, and join the patrol. (1070) The patrol here halts till rejoined by the detached patrols; the one returning by Harding's road, coming out on the main road, close to the 'Half-way' public-house, nearly opposite to the 'Buckhorn Oak.' During the halt of the patrol a vedette is thrown forward on the Woolmer road.

The commanding officer sends a sergeant and two file of men by road to right to Binstead, with orders to ascertain if Binstead or the neighbourhood is or had been occupied by the enemy, or if their patrols had been seen in that direction; also to gain all possible information with respect to the enemy's movements; to rejoin at a trot. The detached patrols having rejoined, and the reports being received, the patrol again advances. (300) The wood closes in on both sides of the road. The patrol proceeds cautiously, extending the distance between the advanced guard and main body, with intermediate files to pass signals. The advanced guard, breaking through the fences here and there, reconnoitres the wood as closely as possible, making signals to the main body to halt when time is required. (380) Two gates right and left will here afford opportunity to throw a couple of files into the wood on each side. (880) At this point a corporal and file of men will be sent by gate and lanes right and left to reconnoitre through the wood, the patrol on the road moving slowly and halting every now and then to allow time for the examination of the wood. (290) The wood here terminates, and the ground again opens on both sides of the road. File of men sent by road to left with orders to proceed about 1000 yards along the road to reconnoitre, rejoining at a trot at the sign-post, which is then in view. (150) Cross roads and sign-posts on each side of the road.

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A corporal and file of men are here sent by road to the right in the direction of Black Nest and Bentley Station, to proceed about 2000 yards and rejoin at a trot. The patrol here halts, and the commanding officer dispatches his report to the officer commanding the reconnoissance to the 'White Horse,' Frensham Great Pond, by a corporal and a file of men, to proceed at a trot when practicable.

All detached patrols having rejoined, the patrol again advances. (320) The ground having now opened on both sides of the road the officer commanding should reconnoitre carefully with his glass in order to ascertain if there are any indications of the enemy on the distant horizon to the right, front, or elsewhere, such as smoke, dust, glancing lights, indicating moving columns, &c. At this point also flankers can be sent out by gates to both flanks to work over the open country and examine the buildings and farms, particularly those on the left. (1400) The stream is here crossed by a stone bridge, before arriving at which the flankers on both flanks are recalled. (290) The new Inn; at this point the patrol is halted, a sergeant and two files sent by road to right with orders to proceed as far as the village of Kingsley and ascertain if the village and church are or have been occupied by the enemy; also to reconnoitre the neighbourhood and ascertain if the enemy's patrols have been seen in that direction; also to gain all possible information with regard to the enemy's position or movements. A corporal and file sent out to the left, a short distance back from the Inn, to reconnoitre from the high ground and a short distance along the road. The commanding officer having given his orders rides forward through the turnpike-gate along the road to summit of rising ground, taking a file of men with him, and reconnoitres round the horizon carefully with his glass. Seeing no indications of the enemy, he returns to the patrol, which being rejoined by the detached patrols again advances. (150) Corporal and file sent to left by road just beyond the turnpike-gate in the direction of Headley, to rejoin at a trot. (500) Flankers sent out over the common to right and left. (650) The commanding officer here halts the patrol; the flankers, seeing the patrol halt, halt also. The commanding officer then dismounts, and leaving his horse in charge of an orderly ascends on foot the small hill to the right, from the summit of which he reconnoitres all round the horizon to his front most carefully with his glass. Having observed no indications of the enemy he returns to the patrol, mounts, and the patrol and flankers advance as before. (400) The patrol here moves slowly, while the flankers examine

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the wood and houses on the left and the advanced files the houses on the left and in front. (200) 'Bank of England' public-house and cross roads.

Sergeant and two file by road to right to examine the woods in that direction, and also to examine the country beyond from the summit of the high ground. The patrol again advances, flankers working as before. (400) The advanced guard here coming in view of the wood in front signals, and the patrol and flankers halt while a sergeant and two file are detached to examine the wood. Upon the signal being made that all is clear, the patrol and flankers advance as before. (500) Right flankers are here recalled, and a sergeant and two file detached with orders to move round the Hogmore enclosure by road to the right, carefully examining the wood as well as the open ground beyond to the right, rejoining the patrol on the main road at the 'Prince of Wales' public-house. (230) Sign-post and road on left to Headley. The patrol halts here for a few minutes, a corporal and file being sent along road to front to examine wood. The officer rides a short distance down the road and reconnoitres with his glass to his left front. The left flankers are recalled and ride in at a trot by the Headley road; when they and the other detached files have rejoined and the officer has completed his reconnoissances, the patrol again advances. (250) File sent to clump of fir-trees on high ground to the left to reconnoitre. (1150) The 'Prince of Wales' public-house: A sergeant and three file are here told off to proceed to Selbourne by road, which turns to the right 220 yards beyond the 'Prince of Wales,' with orders to ascertain if Selbourne and the neighbourhood have been occupied by the enemy, or if their patrols have been seen in that direction; also to obtain all information possible with respect to the enemy's movements; to rejoin at a trot. Corporal and file of men are also sent to examine the church and neighbouring buildings to the right; as soon as the corporal's party has returned and reported all clear, the patrol again advances. (220) Cross roads; corporal and file sent down road to left to reconnoitre; flankers may be here sent out right and left. (1040) Sergeant, corporal, and three file sent by track to left to reconnoitre woods in that direction; flankers recalled. (400) The 'General' public-house and Woolmer Pond on the left of the road. The patrol halts here for a short time while the woods are examined; one file remains as usual outside the wood to repeat signals.

The detached files, upon penetrating a certain distance into

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the wood and finding no indications of the enemy, rejoin the patrol, which again advances. (400) Two file sent by track by S.W. end of pond, to examine the woods in that direction, one file remaining outside on flank of wood next the patrol to communicate signals, the remainder penetrating into the wood where practicable. (300) Corporal and file by road to right in direction of Hazel Copse to reconnoitre. (300) The patrol is here halted, and a sergeant and file of men sent forward to ascertain if the village of Greatham is occupied by the enemy, with orders to send back single file at a trot to report. Upon the report being received the patrol advances. (460) The 'Queen' public-house. Sergeant and four file are here detached by road to left, with orders to proceed about two miles along the road, and to make a close reconnoissance of the wooded ground in that direction; also to reconnoitre carefully from the summit of the high ground on the right of the road.

The patrol passes on through the village of Greatham, and about 200 yards farther on halts opposite the church. The commanding officer rides through the turnpike-gate, and reconnoitres with his glass. Having completed his reconnoissance he returns to the patrol, orders his second in command to place out a couple of vedettes, and to dismount half the men. He then obtains all possible information from the inhabitants with reference to the movements and position of the enemy. He then prepares his report, which he sends in charge of a corporal and file of men to the officer commanding the reconnoissance at Liphook, by road turning off close to 'Queen' public-house.

Directions for non-commissioned officer and escort carrying report from Wracklesham and Greatham road to the 'White Horse,' Frensham Pond:—

1. To keep the left road, leaving the road to Holt Hatch and Rock Barn on the right.

2. To take the right road at the corner of Abbot's Wood.

3. To take the road to the right at Lower Dockenfield Farm (that is the second farm of that name which is passed on the road); then to turn to the left and go round by the mill, in order to cross the stream, as more time would be lost in working over the broken ground and fording the stream than in going by the good road and bridge by the mill.

After crossing the stream by bridge, the orderlies turn sharp to the right by bridle-path, which brings them to gate close to the 'White Horse.'

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No. 2 Patrol.

No. 2 patrol turns to the left at Heath House, and moves along the road in the direction of Hale. (1120) The patrol here turns to the right down the Farnham road at Lauday House.

The commanding officer having first carefully reconnoitred the country to his front with his glass, halting the patrol under cover of the houses for a few minutes while he is doing so; (190) file sent by gate and track to the right in the direction of fir clump to reconnoitre; (420) file through gate to the right to reconnoitre; (820) file by gate and track to right to reconnoitre. The patrol is here halted, and a sergeant, corporal, and two file are sent forward to ascertain if the castle and town of Farnham are occupied by the enemy, or if their patrols have been seen in the neighbourhood, with orders to send back report by single file at a trot. A corporal and file are also sent forward with orders to enter Farnham Park by gate about 250 yards in advance, and to reconnoitre across the park in the direction of the Hale road; also a corporal and file to turn off the road by gate and track about 450 yards farther on on the right. The reports being received that all is clear, the patrol advances. (1400) The patrol having passed the castle, enters the town of Farnham.

The patrol is here halted, and vedettes being thrown out, one-half of the men are allowed to dismount at a time, the commanding officer prepares his report to send back to head-quarters, which, upon the receipt of the reports from the flank patrols, he forwards with them by a corporal and file of men, with orders to proceed at a trot. Two corporals and two file are told off to remain in Farnham, to be in readiness to relieve the orderlies carrying back reports to head-quarters as the patrol advances.

The officer commanding the reconnoissance having forwarded the reports to head-quarters, and also transmitted his own orders to the flank patrols, with orders to the orderlies conveying them to proceed at a trot, the patrol is mounted and passes through Farnham by the street nearly opposite to the 'Lion and Lamb' hotel. (300) Road turns to left. (150) Road turns to right crossing the river by bridge. (180) Road bears away first to right and then to left in S.S.W. direction; a good view can be here obtained, and the commanding officer rides with the advanced files. (400) Flankers can be sent out through gates to right and left. (700) The road here turns to the right; single file sent through gate to the left by track to reconnoitre, the flankers on that side being

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recalled. (150) Patrol turns to left in a S. direction at sign-post on road to Frensham; corporal and file of men sent along road in a W.S.W. direction towards Wracklesham and Greatham road. (200) File of men to the left to ascertain if church and buildings in that direction are occupied by the enemy, also to obtain view. (150) Single file to right up steep path to reconnoitre.

The patrol is also here halted, and a sergeant, corporal, and file of men sent forward to ascertain if the village of Lower Bourne is occupied by the enemy, or if their patrols have been seen in that direction, with orders if all is right to send back report by single file at a trot, remaining himself with the detachment till rejoined by the patrol. The report having been received that all is clear, the patrol again moves forward, (450) through village of Lower Bourne, crossing stream by stone bridge; (250) the advanced files here coming in view of the wooded heights to the left front make the signal for the patrol to halt; the commanding officer rides forward to the front to ascertain the reason of the signal having been given; seeing that he cannot move by the road to the left without exposing himself to the view of an enemy posted on the heights, taking a file of men with him he returns to the bridge in the village from which he moves to the left (his own right as he returns) by the bed of the small stream for a short distance, and then to the right by a small path leading by some houses and passing near a wooden plank over the stream to the higher ground. He then dismounts, having the summit still between him and the wooded heights, and leaving his horse with one of the orderlies, creeps up himself to the summit, from which (lying down) he can reconnoitre the wooded heights with his glass. Having ascertained that they are unoccupied, he sends the file of men along the road to the left to obtain a view in that direction, and then rejoins the patrol. A file is then sent by road to right from point where the advanced files first halted to obtain a view in that direction, and to report if the houses on the road are occupied or have been so by the enemy; a corporal and file of men are also sent by cart track to the left front to the wooded heights, with orders to ascend to the summit and ascertain if there is any appearance of the enemy in that direction; upon the return of the detached files, and all being reported clear the patrol advances. (900) Flankers sent out to heights on the left, and a file of men by track to the right. (1300) At sign-post cor-

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poral and file to the right by Spreakley and Dockenfield road; file of men through gate to left to reconnoitre the fir cover in that direction. The patrol is here halted and a corporal and a file of men sent forward to ascertain if the hamlet of Millbridge, the bridge, or adjacent buildings are occupied by the enemy; single file to be sent back at trot to report. (200) At the hamlet of Millbridge files sent right and left to reconnoitre, the file to the left keeping the upper road round to the left of the 'Dragon' public-house. (400) Stone bridge. The patrol is here halted, and a corporal and file sent forward to ascertain if the village of Frensham is occupied by the enemy, or if their patrols have been seen in that direction, with orders to send back report at a trot. The report being received the patrol advances, crossing the river by bridge. (500) Single file to the high ground on the left, and a file by the road to the left front in the direction of Frensham Common; the patrol moves forward, leaving the school-house on the right, upon the road to Frensham Great Pond. The flankers can here work on the Common to the left, and a good view is obtained to the right from the road. (800) The leading files come in view of the pond; a corporal and file are sent by a track to the left front with orders to reconnoitre from the high ground and rejoin the patrol at the 'White Horse' by the south side of the pond.

At the 'White Horse' inn the patrol halts, placing vedettes in advance on the road and on the high ground, one-half of the men being allowed to dismount at a time. The horses fed and the men allowed to procure refreshment under the superintendence of the non-commissioned officers. The officer commanding the reconnoissance prepares his report, which when the reports are received from the flank patrols he forwards with them by a corporal and file to head-quarters, with orders to the orderlies, who will be relieved at Farnham, to proceed at a trot.

The commanding officer having dispatched the reports and sent his orders to the flank patrols to proceed, the men are mounted and the patrol again advances, leaving a corporal and file of men to remain at the 'White Horse' as a relief to the orderlies to be sent back with the reports from Liphook to head-quarters.

The patrol takes the road to Liphook in S.S.W. direction; a view can be obtained to some distance right and left of the road. (400) A file of men sent by gate and track to the right to reconnoitre; also by gate to left across field to ascertain if the wooded

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ground in that direction is occupied. The road here turns to the left in a S. direction.

The view continues open to some distance on both sides of the road. (320) Cross roads, a corporal and file of men to the right to reconnoitre in the direction of Wishanger Common, with orders to proceed as far as the high ground, and having ascertained that there are no indications of the enemy in that direction, to rejoin at a trot; file of men sent through gate and lane to the left to ascertain if the farmhouse has been occupied, and also further to examine the wood in that direction. The patrol halts for a few minutes at this point while the advanced guard of the patrol examines the small wood on height in front close to the left of the road, and has signalled that all is clear. The patrol then again advances, sending out flankers to work on the open ground to the right, and to ascertain if the buildings to the right front are occupied. (400) File of men sent through gate and wood to left to reconnoitre from heights the valley running along the left; an extended view is here obtained to the right from the road, and the flankers continue to work on an extended scale in that direction. (650) Cross roads and sign-post; from this point the road is closed in by hedges on both sides. Single file rides on right of hedge on the right to keep the flankers in view, selecting a man on a good horse who can take the fences when required; at this point a corporal and file of men are sent at a trot by road to the left, with orders to proceed as far as the pond, and then, ascending the heights to the left front, to reconnoitre carefully; then to rejoin at the same pace. (200) Single file by gate on left—road here only from 3 to 4 yards wide, but in other respects good and fit for all arms; Wishanger Pond seen to right of the road. (750) Sign-post. The road here strikes the road between Thursley and Headley, and the patrol turns to the right on the road to Headley, the right flankers still remaining out but turning to the right by signal. (600) Hearn Farm; file of men sent through gate to left to reconnoitre. (400) Upper Hearn Farm; the patrol here halts for a few minutes while the right flankers rejoin; a corporal and file sent down Kingsley road with orders to reconnoitre and rejoin at a trot. Corporal and file also by lane to left, with orders to reconnoitre wood in that direction and to rejoin at a trot. (250) Single file through gate to reconnoitre cover to right front. (400) Flankers at this point sent out to the left, ascending cautiously to the summit in that direction. (500) Flankers on the left recalled, file of men sent down road to left

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with orders to rejoin at a trot. At this point Headley Church comes into view. (190) The officer here halts the patrol; riding up himself by small path to a small white house on the summit, from this point he examines the country carefully with his glass (taking advantage of the cover afforded by the small house as much as possible) in order to ascertain if there are any indications of the enemy about the village of Headley or elsewhere, the patrol remaining under cover on the road; having observed no indications of the enemy, he returns to the patrol and sends off a file of men to the small wood on the left, which had attracted his attention while making his observations at the small house. The patrol then again advances. The advanced guard of the patrol having come suddenly upon some buildings at a point where the road turns to the left, sends back a single file to inform the officer commanding. The patrol is then halted while the buildings are being examined; the report that all is clear being received from the advanced guard, the patrol again advances. (800) The road here turns to the left in a S.S.W. direction at a white gate; a corporal and file of men are sent by road to right in the direction of Headley Wood, with orders to rejoin at a trot. The patrol then passes through the small village of Hayford, which has been already thoroughly reconnoitred by the advanced guard of the patrol; (130) file of men sent out by road to left to reconnoitre, to rejoin at trot. (600) The patrol is here halted under cover of the crest of the hill; a file of men are sent by road to left to reconnoitre, to rejoin at trot; a sergeant and two file of men are sent forward to ascertain if the church and village of Headley are or have been occupied by the enemy, also to obtain all possible intelligence with regard to the enemy's movements, &c.; upon the sergeant returning with his patrol and making his report, the patrol again advances. (150) The patrol here moves down the Liphook road in a S.S.W. direction. The patrol being first halted for a few seconds while the advanced files ascertain if the poor houses on the left of the road give shelter to any besides the usual occupants; (800) file of men sent by road to left to reconnoitre, to rejoin at trot; (500) single file by gate to the right to rejoin at a trot; (300) file of men by road to right to reconnoitre and ascertain if the paper-mills and buildings in that direction are or have been occupied by the enemy; to rejoin at trot; (190) single files by gates to right and left. (550) At Pasfield the patrol turns to the left in an E.S.E. direction, sending a file of men by road to the right in the direction of Cricketers'

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Farm, to rejoin at a trot. (380) Files by gates right and left to reconnoitre—the file on the right to ascertain if there are any indications of the wooded ground in that direction being occupied; (650) corporal and file of men by road to left to reconnoitre; to rejoin at trot. The patrol halts here to allow time for the advanced guard to ascertain if the wooded cover on the left of the road is occupied by the enemy. The patrol then again advances, (170) file by gate and lane to the right to rejoin at a trot; (230) file through gate to left with orders to ascertain if the cover in that direction is occupied, then to rejoin at a trot; (70) single file by gate to right; (170) single file by lane to right and file by gate to left. (400) The road here crosses the stream; (300) single file by gate to left. (50) Corn-mill; file of men across ford to right to reconnoitre in that direction, to rejoin at trot; (530) file of men by road to left to reconnoitre, to rejoin at trot; (80) file of men across bridge by gate and road to right. (100) Stream is crossed by stone bridge; file of men to left by gate and track. The patrol is here halted while a sergeant and two file of men are sent forward to Liphook with orders to send back report by single file at a trot if it is found to be unoccupied; the report being received, the patrol again advances. (400) The patrol here turns to the left at a farm-gate and old sign-post at one side of the road, sending single file along road to right; (200) single file by gate to left; (290) file by gate and lane to right. (600) The patrol enters the town of Liphook and halts opposite the 'Anchor' hotel, where the officer commanding awaits the reports from the flank patrols, and prepares his own.

No. 3 *Patrol.*

No. 3 patrol takes the right road at the 'Royal Arms' hotel in a W.S.W. direction. (200) The patrol here turns to the right in a N.W. direction, sending a sergeant, corporal, and two file down the Hale road, with orders to examine the houses along the road, and to rejoin the patrol near the church of Hale. (800) The patrol is here halted, and a corporal and file are sent forward to ascertain if the village of Upper Hale is or has been occupied by the enemy, or if their patrols have been seen in that direction, with orders to send back a single file at trot to report.

The report having been received, the patrol again advances. (500) The patrol here turns to the left in a E.S.E. direction, by the road to Hale at the 'Castle' inn. (1000) The 'Cricketers' inn. From this point the officer commanding the patrol reconnoitres

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the country to his front with his glass, halting the patrol for a few minutes while he does so. The patrol then again advances. (650) Sign-post near Hale church. The patrol is here halted; a corporal and file of men are sent down the Farnham road, with orders to proceed about a thousand yards to the entrance of the town, and ascertain, if possible, if Farnham has been occupied by the enemy, or if their patrols have been seen in the neighbourhood, to return at a trot. The commanding officer then, leaving the patrol halted near the sign-post under his second in command, rides down the Farnham road for about 250 to 300 yards, where he will obtain a view. Having carefully reconnoitred the country to his front with his glass, and the patrol detached in the direction of Farnham having rejoined, the patrol again advances by the road marked "To Guildford and Godalming" on the sign-post in a S.S.E. direction. (450) Cross roads and sign-posts; single file sent down the Aldershot and Crondall roads to reconnoitre, the patrol moving down the road marked on the sign-post "To Guildford." (540) Cross roads; the patrol takes the road to the right in a W.S.W. direction. (800) The road here strikes the Guildford and Farnham road, coming out opposite the 'Shepherd and Flock' public-house. The patrol here halts, and the commanding officer prepares his report for the officer commanding the reconnoissance, which, when he receives the report from the officer commanding the fourth patrol, he forwards with it to Farnham by a corporal and two file. The patrol remains halted, vedettes being thrown out, and half the men allowed to dismount at a time, until the orderlies have returned with orders from Farnham to proceed, when the orders are forwarded on to the fourth patrol by their own orderlies, who have waited for them; and the patrol again advances, passing round by the 'Shepherd and Flock' public-house, the road taking an E.S.E. direction; high banks and cover on left of the road, river on right (420 yds.). Road passes by an arch under the railway (100 yds.); steam flour-mills; a brick building capable of defence. (90) A road to the right to farm; at this point the officer sends a single file up a steep path to the left; passing through a gate and past a private house, he will obtain a view from the summit in a N.N.E. direction, after which he rejoins the patrol at a trot and makes his report.

High banks and cover still on left of the road, open ground and river on the right. (180) Pass gate and buildings on right of road; single file sent through gate to reconnoitre.

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(400) At this point the commanding officer sends a single file to the left, up a steep path. From the high ground near a clump of trees he obtains a good view in a N.E. direction, then rejoins the patrol at a trot and makes his report. A little farther on, at the corner of the garden wall of Moor Park, the patrol halts, and a corporal and file of men are sent to Waverley, with orders to obtain all the information possible, and then rejoin the patrol at a trot at the school-houses, by road passing to the west of the river.

Upon the return of the single file sent out to reconnoitre, the patrol turns sharp to the right, crossing the river by bridge. (300) Gate and lodge belonging to Moor Park; the patrol here turns to the left. (450) The patrol turns to the right, in a W.N.W. direction. School-house, a brick building, with clock, to the right, on hill. The patrol here halts till rejoined by the corporal and file of men sent to Waverley. (140) The patrol turns to the left at a lodge gate in a S.S.W. direction, crossing the stream by bridge; for about 300 yards the road is sandy. The road then opens on both sides, and a better view is obtained. (700) Cross roads to Farnham, Wracklesham, and Tilford. The patrol takes the road to the left, in a S. direction, to Tilford; road here about eight yards wide. (480) Small bridge. At this point a single file is sent to the right by track, to reconnoitre the wooded ground from fir clump on small hill.

(900) The commanding officer halts the patrol, and sends a corporal and single file through gate by track on the right, to the high ground near point of fir-trees, to reconnoitre. Upon receiving report the patrol again advances.

(400) Road to left to Sheeps Hatch and Waverley. The patrol takes the road to Tilford in a S.E. direction. (700) The commanding officer halts the patrol, and sends a sergeant forward with a file of men, to report if the village of Tilford is occupied by the enemy.

Upon the report being received the patrol advances. (400) The patrol crosses the river by a bridge into the village of Tilford, a small village with a church and village green in front.

Having halted for a few minutes at Tilford, the patrol moves forward in a S.S.E. direction on the road to Churt, which is indicated by the sign-post at the corner of the Green, passing the church, which is on the right side of the road. (600) The road opens out into common ground on both sides of the road. Cross roads—the right to Frensham, the left to Elstead. (350) The

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officer commanding here sends out his flankers right and left, moving himself with the patrol on the road. (200) The 'Duke of Cambridge' public-house. Here, for some thousand yards or so, the flankers on the right will be temporarily lost sight of, and a single file may be ordered to move on the high ground on the right of the road, when possible, to keep them in view. Those on the left will be kept in view by the patrol. The ground, being open at both sides of the road, is worked by the flankers and advanced guard of the patrol, according to the usual routine, the flankers proceeding up to the summit of the heights without exposing themselves to a view from the front, and signalling to the patrol on the road if necessary. The flankers continue working in this manner upon the commons on both sides of the road, until, having arrived at the 'Pride of the Valley' public-house, cross roads to Frensham Great Pond to the right, Thursley to the left, the patrol is here halted, flankers having been recalled, a vedette sent forward on the road, and one-half of the men allowed to dismount. A corporal and a single file are sent with the officer's written report to the officer commanding the reconnoissance to Frensham Great Pond, the hour of dispatch, locality, pace ordered, &c., being marked. A corporal and single file are also told off to be in readiness to carry on the report from the officer at Thursley, when received, both corporals being ordered to rejoin at a trot upon the delivery of the reports. Having halted for a short time to refresh the men and horses, the whole are mounted, and the patrol advances. (120) A road branches off to the right to Headley. The patrol takes the left road, in a S.W. direction, to the 'Royal Huts' public-house.

The ground here again closes; hedges and cultivation at both sides of the road, in consequence of which the flankers can only work occasionally, as opportunity offers. At Churt Farm a single file is sent by road to left for about 200 or 300 yards to reconnoitre. (350) Single file sent along lane to right to reconnoitre. (500) Flankers may be again sent out to right flank. (1500) Good view obtained to the left from the road; farther on, at sign-post, corporal and file of men sent down road to the right (about 1000 yards) to reconnoitre, with orders to rejoin at a trot. At the 'Royal Huts' the patrol halts.

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No. 4 Patrol.

At the 'Royal Arms' hotel the fourth patrol takes the left road in a S. direction. (200) From this point the commanding officer reconnoitres carefully with his glass the country in the direction of Crookesbury Hill, and round the horizon to his left front, halting the patrol for a few minutes while he is so employed. (116) Single file sent by lane to right to reconnoitre. (280) Corporal and file sent through gate to left to reconnoitre wood and ground in that direction; also file of men by lane to right. The patrol here moves slowly, while the advanced file examines the houses in front. (350) Single file sent through gate to the left. The patrol here halts while a corporal and file are sent forward to ascertain if the village of Weybourne is occupied by the enemy, or if their patrols have been seen in that direction. It being reported that all is clear, the patrol again advances. (200) Cross roads and village of Weybourne. File of men sent down road to right through village, also a file by road to left to reconnoitre. The patrol moves down the centre road in an E.S.E. direction. (230) Single file through gate to left to reconnoitre. (150) Files sent by road to right to reconnoitre. (280) The road here passes under the railway. (600) Cross roads and sign-post. A file of men are sent down each of the roads right and left. The patrol takes the centre road, marked on sign-post, "To Guildford." From this point a tolerably clear view is obtained on both sides of the road, as the patrol advances. (760) Single file through gate to the left. (360) Road here passes by bridge over railway. (270) The road here joins the main road, coming out opposite 'The Jolly Farmers' public-house, striking the Guildford and Farnham road close to the turnpike-gate. The patrol is here halted, and two patrols, consisting of a sergeant, corporal, and three file each, are told off; one receives orders to patrol by road running along the right of the railway as far as the village of Tongham; the other to patrol the road in the direction of Guildford, along the Hog's Back, for about a mile or mile and half, both patrols to rejoin at a trot.

The officer commanding the patrol then prepares his report for the officer commanding the reconnoissance, which, upon the return of the detached patrols, he completes and dispatches by a corporal and file of men to the officer commanding No. 3 patrol, to be forwarded, together with his own report, to the officer commanding the reconnoissance to Farnham, the corporal and file

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remaining to bring back the orders. Upon receiving the order from Farnham, the patrol proceeds along the main road in the direction of Farnham. (380) The patrol turns to the left in a S.E. direction. (260) File of men sent through lane to the right to reconnoitre the woods and ground beyond; to rejoin at a trot. (180) The patrol turns first to the left at a small white house, and then (70) to the right in a S. direction. A single file is here sent through a gate to the left to reconnoitre; to rejoin at a trot. (280) Sergeant, corporal, and file of men to the right at cross roads in the direction of Crookesbury Hill, with orders to ascend the hill, the sergeant dismounting to do so when the ground becomes too steep for riding. View to be obtained from the summit between N.N.W. and S.S.E. View in other directions shut out by fir trees.

(600) House on right—gate on left. Single files sent right and left. (300) File of men sent on to ascertain if the houses in front are occupied, and also if any patrols of the enemy have been seen. (300) Single files to right and left at cross roads near 'Barley Mow' public-house. (200) 'Barley Mow' public-house. (200) Single file sent by track to the right front in the direction of the common. Single file by gate to the left at fir plantation.

(800) From point near clump of trees an extensive view can be obtained from E. to S.W. points.

The officer here halts the patrol and reconnoitres the country carefully with his glass. (350) Cross roads and sign-post. The officer here sends a corporal and file of men along the road to Cutts Mill, in the direction of Puttenham Common. At this point also the patrol turns to the right in a S.S.W. direction, and takes the road to Elstead.

The ground here opens, and the flankers can work at both sides of the road; the patrol must then move slowly, halting occasionally to give the flankers time to reconnoitre the wooded ground.

(1600) The flankers here draw in again and join the patrol. (1100) A file of men sent to the right in the direction of Waverley. The patrol here turns to the left at the sign-post on the road to Elstead.

(400) At this point a sergeant and three men are sent on to ascertain if the mill and adjoining buildings or bridge are occupied by the enemy, with further orders, if the bridge and buildings are not occupied, to send one man back to report; the sergeant

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and remaining file of men proceeding to the village of Elstead to ascertain if it is occupied, and also to gain information, returning to the bridge to report.

(400) The river is here crossed by a stone bridge, and the officer halts the patrol at this point till the sergeant and party return and report that the village is unoccupied.

At the cross roads, near the 'Golden Fleece' inn, a corporal and file of men are sent along the road in the direction of Milford, the patrol turning down to the right in a W.S.W. direction on the Thursley road, passing the church, which is on the right of the road. At the church a single file is sent out by road to the right to reconnoitre. (1000) A file of men sent out to the left across the common to examine the wooded ground to the left. (150) Single file sent out through gate to right near small house to reconnoitre. At this point flankers can extend to the left over the common. (350) The ground here opens out also on the right, and from this point the flankers can work on the Common on both sides of the road.

The officer here also examines the country with his glass, rejoining the patrol at a trot when he has completed his reconnoissance. (900) Water in pond on the left of the road. The flankers on the right will examine the fir wood in that direction, approaching it cautiously. (1000) The patrol here turns first to the right and then to the left at small cottage in a S.W. direction, recalling the flankers and sending a file of men to reconnoitre on the road in the direction of Frensham Little Pond; also sending single file to reconnoitre from the high ground to the right, approaching the summit cautiously.

(350) Single files, through gates right and left to reconnoitre. (450) At this point the officer rides out through a gate to his right, and reconnoitres the country from W. to S. with his glass. He also sends forward a sergeant and two file by road, turning off to the left, to ascertain if the village of Thursley is occupied by the enemy, the officer halting with his patrol till he receives the sergeant's report. The patrol then moves forward into the village of Thursley.

At this point the officer halts the patrol to refresh both horses and men, placing a vedette forward on the road during the halt. A sergeant, corporal, and two file are told off to proceed to Witley to ascertain whether that place is occupied by the enemy, and to gain every information; to return at a trot.

The officer also from this point, upon the return of the Witley

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patrol, sends his report by a file of men to the 'Pride of the Valley' public-house by road to right, to be forwarded from there to the officer commanding the reconnoissance at the 'White Horse,' Great Frensham Pond. The report having been dispatched and the men mounted, the patrol passes through Thursley, taking the road first to the left and then to the right in a W.S.W. direction at the sign-post; flankers having been previously sent out on the Common to the left, rejoining the patrol as it turns down the Hazelmere road, passing the 'Red Lion' public-house, which is on the left of the road. File of men sent by roads to left to reconnoitre.

(750) Single file through gate to right to reconnoitre. (200) Single file through gate to left. (900) Single files right and left. (250) The officer here reconnoitres the country to the left front with his glass, rejoining the patrol at a trot, which continues to advance. (200) Single file sent out by track to right front.

(300) Extended view is here obtained to the left. The patrol should be halted under cover from the front, and the country should be closely examined with the glass. If no sign of the enemy is discovered, the patrol again proceeds, the flankers working on the high ground to the right. (900) The officer here dismounts, and, ascending the high ground to the left front, reconnoitres carefully with his glass. (400) Here a clear view across the valley to the right is obtained, and the flankers on that side are recalled. (800) The road at this point bears round to the right—round the Devil's Punch Bowl. The officer here again dismounts, ascends to the summit at the left side of the road, and reconnoitres the country in the direction of Hazelmere, the patrol remaining halted while he is so employed.

Having satisfied himself that there are no indications of the proximity of the enemy, he mounts, and the patrol again moves forward in the direction of the 'Royal Huts' public-house.

Having arrived at the 'Royal Huts,' a sergeant, corporal, and two file are told off to proceed to Hazelmere, and gain every possible information with respect to the enemy's position and movements; to return at a trot.

At this point a junction is formed between the 3rd and 4th patrols; and upon the return of the patrol detached to Hazelmere the officer commanding the 4th patrol makes up his report, which is dispatched to Liphook with that of the officer commanding the 3rd patrol. Directions for the route to be taken by the sergeant's patrol detached to Witley, taking the road from Thursley, upon

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which the patrol subsequently moves, but (750) turning to the left instead of to the right at the sign-post; then (1700), after passing the 'Half Moon' public-house at cross roads near small pond, turn to the right, from which point the road leads straight to Witley.

Directions for the route to be taken by the patrol and orderlies carrying the reports of the 3rd and 4th patrols to Liphook.

The road passing by the 'Seven Thorns' inn, which will be found indicated in the Plan, is so plain and well marked that it cannot be mistaken; but as there is a considerable distance to be passed over, and as the ground is to a certain extent unreconnoitred, the patrol should proceed with caution, throwing forward advanced files, and only trotting when there is no danger of surprise.

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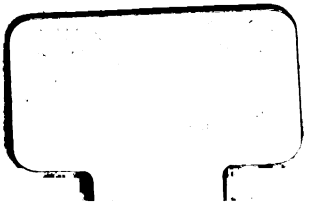

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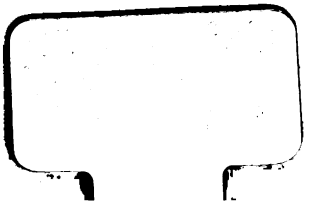

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